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2-1977

## Mainely Gay, Vol.4, No.02 (February 1977)

Peter Prizer

Susan Henderson

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# Mainely Gay

Vol 4

February '77

No 2







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# Who We Are

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Dan Spanton  
Theodore Wells

The official positions and policies of *Mainely Gay* are contained only in its editorials. Opinions put forth in individual articles, cartoons, poems, advertising, notices or letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of *Mainely Gay*.

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Peter Prizer

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# Note To Readers

■ **CHANGING ADDRESS?** If you are moving, please send us a change of address. Our esteemed postal service does not forward bulk-rate mail, so you're likely to miss an issue if we don't get your new address in time. It costs us 25¢ a shot to have the P.O. provide us with your new location, and it's just too expensive to mail out duplicate copies...all of which draweth forth great weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth from ye exchequer. So please, let us know as soon as you can. We hate to lose touch with our friends.

\* \* \* \*

■ **HELP WANTED TO MOVE MOUNTAINS**--As readers will see elsewhere in this issue, the Maine Coalition for Human Rights is introducing in this year's legislative session an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act that will protect equal rights for Gay people. This effort requires a lot of help and money. There will be a

rally at the State House when the bill comes up for hearings--we need lots of people to be there and show support. If you can get a day off from work or school, take it. Meanwhile, write or phone your legislators to express your support. Legislators are very much attuned to letters and verbal communications from constituents. Send contributions, if you can, to the Maine Coalition for Human Rights, PO Box 2242, Augusta, Maine 04330. For information and to volunteer, call the Maine Gay Task Force at 773-5530 (Portland) between 10AM and 11PM. Together we can move mountains!

\* \* \* \*

■ **YES, IT'S REAL:** The cover of last month's Mainely Gay was lifted from Chart #313 (Muscongus Bay, Maine), published by the U.S. Department of Commerce as a part of their "National Ocean Survey." It should be noted, however, that the staff of Mainely Gay assumes no responsibility for those who navigate by the logo!



# EDITORIAL

Journalism, or, more to the point, the process of reporting, writing or editing news and opinion, is filled with odd, little quirks.

A quirk of the New York Times is that, in their obsession not to sound slangy, they put the word gas--meaning gasoline--in quotes ("gas") and use Mr. before every male newsmaker that ever graces their pages; even the Jersey mobsters and local politicians.

A quirk of the Manchester (N.H.) Union-Leader is that they're hooked on printing certifiable slander that's obvious to even the most casual observer.

In much the same spirit, we staffers at Mainly Gay are peculiar in that we consciously avoid the use of the word "straight" to denote heterosexuals. Simply, we have heterosexual friends and allies who have felt insulted by the "square" inference of

"straight" as being ridiculously conventional or conforming.

This is not to imply that many heterosexuals aren't inherently "straight;" as it happens, many are, with some poor souls playing the role of "straight" to ridiculous extremes.

But quirks remain quirks, and we decided a while back that this publication would not label all heterosexuals as "straights." We prefer the designation "non-Gay." Which, after all, is surely a precise (and shorter) term for those of the heterosexual persuasion. ■





# FEEDBACK

Dear MGTF,

Have just finished reading January issue of MAINELY GAY, Vol. 4 No. 1. An excellent issue if I may pass the compliment. Saw it on a friend's work desk and he allowed me to borrow it. However, I want my own subscription, so please find enclosed \$5 for a year's subscription.

I am an older Gay, hanging in my closet, but brought closer to the reality of a real Gay community through your rewarding courage of life in and near Portland. I am a teacher (what else?) but do manage to have a few Gay friends in the coastal area so find time once in a while to "camp" it up and enjoy the company of others.

Question: are there any places in Portland where Gays really meet or even, perchance, a watering place where you can meet others? You have probably gathered by now that my life is a little lonely in spite of busy music classes every day and a few good straight friends but--I would like so much to participate in some meaningful way with MGTF. The only Gay club in our

area is Flo's in Augusta and I don't enjoy it, even slightly. I did rustle up the courage to go once but the reception was less than frigid. Lukewarm? I have to confess to fifty-one years ago as to birth (through no fault of my own), but in the words from the ads in the ADVOCATE, I am not a fat, a fem, nor do I practice S&M or take drugs. I love Blacks, Whites, Orientals, my Lesbian friends and any other people who like to exchange letters, have quiet dinners together and work for a common aim, understanding and love.

Gosh, I don't know how all the above crept into an answer to a subscription ad. If it's out of place, character and time, forgive me. Even teachers get a little cabin fever this time of winter. Please tell Nancy Garcia the imagery in "Pine Point Beach" is really lovely as is the urgency of "The End: My First Thoughts." It touched a responsive chord in this stone heart of mine. Also to Saul Brown for the haunting "North Atlantic Sanction." Where could I get the rest of the poem? Arnica's "Garbage Person" and "litterbug" are really so in tune with what we are all feeling today. I'll have one of my students



letter in Olde English script the "Litterbug" poem and place it near the piano for everyone to enjoy during Chorus.

Stan Fortuna and Peter Prizer deserve accolades for the cover design. Very clever and decorative. A lot of thought and intellect produced it. I also liked the Question Person column; good reporting on a serious question. Chuck Lyon's "Myth of Pedophilia" really bombarded a real matter which all teachers have to deal with. He is so right! None of us would imagine molesting children. Few of us are in teaching for the salaries because it certainly is not where the "big" money is. We really like these children we work with or we would be some where else. Please relay to Peter Prizer that I did not develop any irritation or even a rash as I read "The State Street Straw" and please, what was the square root of the Map Logo? I really loved the cartoon at the end of his article. I have been singing those fabulous heterosexual songs of yesteryear to people at the Holiday Inn at Cook's Corner and singles clubs (Midcoast, etc.) with a combo I've played organ and piano with for the last 11 years. Yes, believe it or not, at this advanced age I still play for pleasure and money weekends, and even play the hustle, bump, and try to sing new songs like

"Muskrat Love" and "Feelings." Not good, but get by. "Yesterday" is more like it!

I've rambled enough--thank you again for reading. Put my Feb. issue in the mail as soon as it's off the press...

Gaily yours,

Ted

[Editor's note: the only certifiably all-Gay "watering spot" in the Portland vicinity is Roland's Tavern (see ad, this issue.) The hours are 1PM to 1AM, daily. Yes, we hope to include more of Saul Brown's poetry in future issues. He can be contacted c/o MGTF. Concerning the square root of the January cover logo, I must report that I've derived up to seven different figures, largely resulting from the degree of distraction experienced during calculation. My guess is that the figure of 122.5, calculated while watching a made-for-TV "movie," is the most accurate. I think. --Peter]





January 30, 1977

Dear staff and readers,

Thanks to your efforts, along with those of Gay people around the country, my legal fees are now paid in full. The final payment (\$600) was donated by author Adrienne Rich. This huge contribution was channeled to my attorney Kim Matthews via Lesbian Mothers, Inc. After this payment there was a \$39 credit. This was sent to Lesbian Mothers, Inc.

If I receive any more contributions they will be sent to MGTF, earmarked for a special fund that will help other Gay people in legal situations.

Since the article, "Dilemma of Taking a Stand,": our situation has taken a 180° turn. Our lives have settled down and for the time being stabilized. We are now at a point where we can reach out and impart to others the many things we've learned from our experiences, particularly the legalities and emotions involved in child custody.

Currently Jodi and I are co-authoring a book called Beating the Odds. Several publishers have expressed an interest in our book, and we hope to have it ready for publication before the end of the year.

We thank you again for your tremendous support. All of you gave us the courage, strength and faith to Beat the Odds.

Keeping the faith,

Carol Whitehead/Jodi Griffin



# NEWS SHORTS

SEATTLE, WA (*NewsWest*) -- Ongoing court battles and the resulting insecurity are the most difficult factors in providing a "normal" home life for six children of divorce. That's the conclusion of Sandra Schuster and Madeline Isaacson, Lesbian mothers whose struggle to retain custody of their children has become almost legendary. Ex-husbands of the two women, lovers of more than four years, have brought actions of increasing intensity and homophobic innuendo since the 1972 court decree that awarded them custody of Sandy's four and Madeline's two children. The first decree required them to maintain separate residences, but an appeal later approved their right to raise the children in a united household. It is that decree that is currently being fought so bitterly by the children's fathers. Filed in 1974, the challenge has been stalled two years on the Court of Appeals calendar. When it was finally scheduled for argument Nov. 9 this year, the appeals

judges "red-flagged" the case because of its "national importance" and the likelihood of its being regarded as a precedent elsewhere. Referred to the state's Supreme Court with no action at the Appeals level, only thirty minutes of oral presentation was allowed for each side in the litigation, to augment the voluminous prior court records. The attorney for the fathers asserted that "to leave these children any longer in the custody of Lesbians would permanently harm them." In rebuttal, the women's attorneys simply stressed that for four years the mothers had provided a secure home life for the children, an atmosphere that was validated and endorsed by exhaustive expert testimony two years ago. Both sides are currently awaiting the verdict of the Supreme Court.

DADE COUNTY, FL (*Philadelphia Weekly Gayzette*) -- The Dade County Commission recently passed a Gay rights bill protecting residents' jobs and homes from discriminatory practices based on sexual orientation. At a



heavily attended vote on the legislation, the Commission passed the new protections by a tally of 5-3. Areas affected include the city of Miami, Coconut Grove, Miami Beach and Coral Gables. The vote came after strong testimony from civil libertarians and the sponsoring organization, the Dade County Coalition for Humanistic Rights of Gays. Religious foes of the bill were in strong attendance. Notable among the latter group were a former Miss America, Anita Bryant, well-known as TV commercial singer for Florida orange juice, and Alvin Dark, baseball player with the Chicago Cubs. Dade County becomes the fourth county of 38 municipalities to adopt ordinances protecting the jobs and homes of Gay people.

OTTAWA, ONT (Bulletin of the National Gay Rights Coalition) -- In the Canadian Gay movement's first major victory at the federal level, the government has withdrawn the prohibition against homosexuals immigrating into Canada. The new Immigration Act no longer contains the section barring the admission of homosexuals, prostitutes and epileptics. Although

the legislation has yet to be approved by Parliament, no changes are anticipated which could affect the status of would-be Gay immigrants. This breakthrough follows years of public action by the Gay movement. There was little mention in the media of the change. However, NGRC groups expect to organize public celebrations when the new Act is actually approved, probably this Spring.

DENVER (Gay Community News) -- The Denver feminist newspaper Big Mama Rag has been denied "tax deductibility" status by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) because the monthly publication "advocates the equality of homosexual lifestyles to heterosexual lifestyles." Although the IRS has no written policy barring disqualification for tax deductibility on the basis of views on homosexuality, the agency recently took similar action against the Lambda Services Bureau, a Colorado Springs referral and counselling service. The Lambda denial was made on the same grounds and the organization's appeal with the IRS is pending. Big Mama Rag is also contesting the ruling and, if rejected, the newspaper plans to go to court.



1976  
WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Gay Community News*) -- In its first decision sympathetic to Gay people since last March's sanctioning of state sodomy laws, the United States Supreme Court vacated a lower court ruling that upheld the firing of a Gay civil servant. On Jan. 10 the Supreme Court sent the case of Seattle clerk-typist John Singer back to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for "reconsideration" in light of the U.S. government's current position on the subject. Subsequent to Singer's dismissal from his job in the Equal Opportunity Commission's Seattle office, the United States Civil Service Commission had changed its policies regarding Gays. Discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference is now contrary to Civil Service regulations. The Supreme Court's judgment in the case was made by a 6-3 vote with Justices Rehnquist, Burger and White dissenting.

CONCORD, NH (*The Advocate*) -- As 1976 drew to a close, it looked as if New Hampshire's sodomy-law repeal would stay on the books. On June 7, 1975, Gov. Meldrim Thomson, well-known for his un-

successful attempts to oust the Gay Students Organization from the University of New Hampshire campus, signed legislation reforming the state's rape laws. Unwittingly, he also made New Hampshire the 18th state in the nation where sodomy between consenting adults is legal. It wasn't until a year later that Gay activist Franklin Kameny of Washington (D.C.) discovered the repeal while reading a legal magazine. On October 13, the *Manchester Union-Leader* ran an editorial appraising its readers of what had happened. At this point, Gov. Thomson may, if he wishes, submit a late-filed bill to reinstate the sodomy law. While the general feeling in the Granite State is that Thomson does indeed possess the motivation to file such a bill, it is also expected that any such move would be met with considerable apathy.

NEW YORK, NY (*Louisiana Gay Blade*) -- The Rev. Ellen Marie Barrett, deacon of the Episcopal Church since 1975 was ordained a priest at the Church of the Holy Apostles in New York on January 10. Barrett expects to continue to fill in one week days at ST. Marks in Berkeley, CA.,



and to continue her pursuit of a doctorate in ethics, according to "Integrity Forum," a publication for Episcopal Gays. Rev. Barrett has spent eight years in open participation in the Gay movement in and outside of the church. Reaction to the ordination by the Rt. Rev. James B. Brown, Bishop of Louisiana, was predictable in view of his published attitude toward homosexuality. Bishop Brown wrote a letter to Louisiana newspapers saying he was "shocked and saddened" because an acknowledged Lesbian was ordained a priest, and told readers that "homosexuality is still an impediment to ordination in this diocese." "I cannot condone," the Bishop said, "clerical lifestyle and sexual mores repugnant to Holy Scripture." Barrett has said candidly that her relationship with her lover "is what feeds the strength and compassion I bring to the ministry." She also commented that "homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle that can be a good and creative thing."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*San Francisco Sentinel*) -- The Central Intelligence Agency has admitted to collecting

over 300,000 files on persons arrested for homosexual activity within the U.S. The admission is contained in the Rockefeller Commission study on C.I.A. activity within this country, a report known formally as Report to the President by the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States. The legislation which established the agency in the post-World War II era specifically prohibited the CIA from engaging in domestic surveillance and spying, a restriction which the agency in recent years has considered of little or no import. The Agency told the Rockefeller group that it obtained the information on Gays through local and state police agencies in return for cooperating with those law enforcement entities. The information dates back to the 1930's.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (*Gay Community News*) -- Indiana became the 35th state recently to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. Supporters of the ERA immediately asserted that the action was a major breakthrough as no state has passed the amendment since North Dakota did so in 1975. ERA action is expected in



the first few months of this year in North and South Carolina, Florida, Nevada, and perhaps Missouri. 38 states are needed for the ERA to be adopted as part of the Constitution.

HARRISBURG, PA (ZAP) -- A Gay adolescent in custody of a Pennsylvania court has been placed with a Gay foster parent. The official action, a first, was mediated through the Committee on Criminal and Juvenile Justice of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities. Aside from the usual "hassles," the 15-year-old Lesbian and her new mother are doing fine.

LOS ANGELES (NewsWest) -- Mayor Tom Bradley has promised to continue support of financial aid to the Gay Community Services Center and put civilian monitors on the street for the 1977 Gay Pride Parade in Hollywood to watch for some of the irregularities that marred the event in 1976. Speaking to 30 Gay community representatives at a "Dutch-treat" breakfast, Bradley also indicated that he would seriously

consider the appointment of openly Gay persons to city boards and commissions.

MONTREAL, QUE (The Body Politic) -- About 30 Lesbians and Gay men picketed the Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette Church in the pouring rain on October 31. The parish priest, under the pressure of some members of his parish, had decided to break a contract for a Gay Halloween dance, organized by Gay Women of Montreal for October 30. The pastor also used the argument that had he known the dance was for Gay people, he would not have consented to the lease. A leaflet distributed during the picket explained: "Sexual preference, like race and religion, is not a relevant issue in signing a contract for social activity... This is nothing more than the most recent example in the long tradition of anti-Gay discrimination by the Catholic Church." Only the second public demonstration by Gay people in Montreal history, the picket was sponsored by Gay Women of Montreal and the Association pour les Droits des Gai(e)s du Quebec.

SYDNEY, Australia (Gay Community News) -- A day-long Tribunal On Homosexuals and



Discrimination has judged Australia in need of legal reform. The Tribunal--modeled after the Stockholm Tribunal on the Vietnam War--heard more than 20 documented cases of discrimination and harassment against Australian Gays. Sitting in judgment was a former Deputy Prime Minister, a Senator for New South Wales, a labor leader, and an official in an Australian social service council. Although the Tribunal's recommendations (Gay rights legislation, education on alternative lifestyles, and protection of Gay people in institutions) are not binding in any way, Gay activists hope that the influence of the individual members will have an effect.

NEW HAVEN, CT (*Gay Community News*) -- A fire at Yale University's Hendrie Hall destroyed the offices of GAY (Gay Alliance at Yale and Yalesbians) on the evening of January 2. No one was in the office at the time, but furniture, books, and the organization's counseling service records were totally lost. GAY spokespeople believe that the origins of the blaze may have been "suspicious" and also fear that

Yale officials will use the fire as a pretext to force the organization off-campus.

COLUMBUS, OHIO (*The Alternative*) -- Ohio implemented a new law January 1, 1977, which will allow a single woman or man to adopt a child. The creation of a "one-person" family is among revisions of the new law that sets adoption standards in Ohio. The new law was seen as climaxing a three-year struggle in the legislature to allow probate and juvenile courts more flexibility in adoption proceedings. Recommendations to probate judges by a review process will now insure the child's best interest, according to the head of the Welfare Department's Bureau of Services for families and children. Ohio Gay activists are optimistic that the new law will shortly lead to foster home placement and subsequent adoption of Gay children by Gay parents■





# Cumberland County Curmudgeon

By Susan W. Henderson

## IN WHICH, A LESBIAN AUTHOR SOCKS IT TO 'EM.

Simpson, Ruth, From the Closet to the Courts, New York, Penguin Books, 1976, 180 pp., \$2.25.

This is a radical Lesbian book that everybody should read. In it, Ruth Simpson has discussed the major institutions of our society and how they oppress Gay people. She speaks specifically in terms of Lesbians, but most of the material can be applied to Gay men as well. She discusses the Gay and feminist movements and their pitfalls. Much of the material is familiar to Movement people, but it has a lot to teach even to hardened old campaigners.

Simpson pulls no punches. She takes on the major institutions one after the other: psychiatrists, the churches, the family, the press, the cops, etc., and synthesizes what they have done to Gay people. Homophobia in the Feminist movement comes in for its share of criticism. Simpson is a thoroughgoing feminist--with her, feminism is a *sine qua non* for liberation--and her criticism of the Women's Movement is constructive.

The chapter on psychiatry is somewhat less effective. In this section, she quotes parts of a speech by the notorious homophobe Charles Socarides, and rips it apart bit by bit. The ripping is more than well deserved, and any Gay person would quite agree with it, but it is more polemic than reasoned argument. Granted, it is difficult, if not a waste of time, to maintain reason in the face of vintage Socarides, but something on the order of Frank Kameny's "Gay Liberation and Psychiatry," which pillories the homophobic shrinks for their lack of scientific method, would have been more convincing.

Parts of this book make chilling reading. The accounts



of police harrassment of the New York Daughters of Bilitis chapter should enlighten anyone who still thinks that Gestapo tactics can't happen here. Even more appalling is her account of how *agents provocateurs* sowed dissension in DOB and other Gay organizations, which led to their destruction. The thought that a Movement sister or brother might be an FBI agent is to say the least disturbing, and anyone who has read 1984 can't help feeling a little paranoid after finishing From the Closet to the Courts.

Simpson is firmly convinced that the institutions of society have a stake in keeping Gays and other minorities out of power, and works to keep them from uniting to demand a share of that power. She believes that the only way any minority will gain freedom is for all minorities to unite and work together, respecting each other's differences. Her whole book is a plea for a "patchwork majority." It won't be easy, because the minorities all have the same prejudices that those in power have. However, says Simpson, we must work for it, because it is our only chance. No one can be free until all are free■

# SUBSCRIBE!

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## MAINE GAY RIGHTS AMENDMENT LAUNCHED

An amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act, which would prohibit discrimination in jobs, housing, and credit on the basis of sexual or affectional preference, has been introduced into this year's legislative session by the Maine Coalition for Human Rights.

Member groups of the coalition are the Maine Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Maine Gay Task Force, Maine Lesbian Feminists and the Maine Civil Liberties Union. Sponsors are Reps. Laurence E. Connolly Jr., and Gerald E. Talbot (both Portland Democrats), both long-time friends to progressive causes.

If passed, this will be the first state-wide Gay Rights bill to go into effect. There have been many local ordinances, but as yet no state-wide one. The Coalition expects stiff opposition, but hopes that a great deal of education will take place, even if the bill does not pass. The Equal Rights Amendment, after all, took 50 years to get out of committee, so never despair! Lois Reckitt of NOW reports that response from legislators has been more favorable than was expected.

Help from all well-disposed persons is urgently needed; see "Note to Readers" in this issue for details. Especially needed are people willing to testify to experiences of discrimination.

This issue should provide some lively press copy for the next few months. Who knows--good old Maine could surprise the nation with yet another progressive act!

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[Related news item: On Feb. 8 the members of the Maine Human Rights Commission voted unanimously to endorse the Gay Rights Amendment to the existing Human Rights Act.]



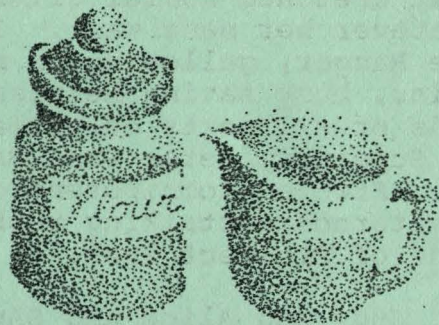
## MAINE GAY SYMPOSIUM IV

We're doing it again! The Wilde-Stein Club, in conjunction with Maine Lesbian Feminists, the Gay People's Alliance and Mainely Gay, is putting together the Fourth Annual Maine Gay Symposium, March 25, 26 and 27 at Bangor Community College. This year's events include registration (on Friday, 6PM--midnight, and on Saturday, 8:30--9:30AM), a coffeehouse, an arts and crafts show, a sale of Gay literature and music, keynote speakers, workshops, dinner, a dance, and a Sunday morning brunch. Anyone is invited to participate in the coffeehouse program. We'd like music, poetry readings, skits and other antics. Child care during the Symposium and housing for Friday and Saturday nights, plus the above events, are all included in the \$5 registration fee. (Bring a sleeping bag. The registration fee will be waived for poor people.)

Registration, housing, child care and craftwork forms are available by writing to:

WILDE-STEIN CLUB  
MEMORIAL UNION  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
ORONO, MAINE 04473

We desperately need people to facilitate workshops. If you have any interest, or know of anyone who would be willing to share her/his/their experiences, knowledge, curiosity with Symposium goers, please contact us at the Wilde-Stein Club by mail or call 581-2571 weekdays, from 9AM to 4PM. Any input, questions or comments are welcomed and needed!



RECIPES WANTED!!!

We still need recipes for the Mainely Gay Cookbook. If you have a dish, drink, munchie, etc. that you like to make and share with friends, please write out the recipe and send it to us. Thanks to all of you who've already sent contributions. We've got some stuff that really sounds tasty and we need more! Help us make this the Gay publishing event of the year.



# PORTRAIT OF THE LESBIAN AS A YOUNG DYKE

*By Karla Jay*

Perhaps homosexuals are born, not made. Even at the age of two when the little girls in the next carriage were being rolled around in lacy frocks, I was posing for family pictures in a cowboy suit. I first noticed that I was different from all the other little girls when I was five, and the horror and fear of not belonging led me even then to hide what I was actually feeling, thinking, and doing.

How could I do otherwise? Judy and Alice and Sandra were identifying with Sleeping Beauty (that emblem of passivity), Snow White (that gracious homemaker), Cinderella (that wretched social climber), and even Bambi's mother (whatever her name was). I, on the other hand, was the Lone Ranger, galloping on my bicycle across the Brooklyn plains, busy saving helpless women from their fate at the hands of all sorts of villains, dragons, and Indians. I was Superman, Peter Pan, Batman and Robin all rolled into one. Free and omnipotent on my bikemobile, I would spend my afternoons stalking robbers and murderers lurking in the wilds of Prospect Park.

Judy and Alice and SANDRA were always playing house with each other and with their collections of shiny, cold, plastic dolls. They thrilled as the dolls croaked out "Mama" and wet their plastic underwear. They played nurse and washed the dolls until the paint came off. They watched TV every morning to see what kind of dolls Mattel would invent for them to give birth to next. By the age of eight, they all had little homemaker kits and had produced rubbery cupcakes and cookies to be eaten by good-natured daddies who smiled and smacked their lips even though the dry pieces got caught in their throats.

I hated my dolls, which sat alone in a corner of my pink bedroom. They remained untouched, except for the weekly dusting they received from my mother. I never tried to bake and saw no need for it: all my confidence was



placed in the ovens of Nabisco and Sunshine. My favorite game was veterinarian. I would doctor my stuffed dogs and cats and save them from the perils of rabies and distemper. Sometimes, I would even find a real victim on the streets--usually a cat with matted fur, one eye, numerous scars, and a rather sad tail. Grateful to find a vet, the cat would follow me home, only to be rudely dismissed by my mother, who proclaimed that she didn't need animals, she had children. The rejected patient would return to the alley, fortified by a bowl of milk, which my mother could not deny even to a cat.

After school, Judy and Alice and Sandra (they were inseparable as the Three Musketeers) jumped rope until their arms got stiff from turning the rope. Or they would play ball, bouncing the Spalding on the sidewalk or against a building while they recited rhymes. I couldn't jump rope to save my life--a serious handicap in Brooklyn. So instead, I spent my afternoons playing stickball and punchball with the boys in the gutter. I also played touch football and could run, pass, and punt with the best of them. I wore my hair in a modified crewcut, developed broad shoulders, gave a mean punch with my left hand, and was accepted as one of the boys. I still rode my bicycle and was known as the daredevil rider who could race around the parade grounds with her feet on the handle bars.

Judy and Alice and Sandra laughed at me. They whispered about me and pointed me out to the other girls in the sixth grade. At first, I was hurt and stopped speaking to the other girls in the class, but then I got angry and started taking revenge by playing jokes on them. Once, I gave them raw eggs and told them they were hard-boiled. Alice wound up with yoke on her dress and Judy got egg all over her long, blond hair. I planted worms and dead fish in their desks. Even though I was a behavior problem, my marks were excellent, so the principal told me I was slightly "maladjusted" and put me in a speech therapy class. The principal was a progressivist. He believed that all problems started in the mouth and could be corrected if the speech pattern could be changed. The speech therapy class met once a week with a teacher who had a lisp. The boys



(I was the only girl in the class) laughed at the teacher, who condescendingly informed us that we spoke Brooklynese instead of English, and told her that we lived in Brooklyn, not England. My classmate David shot rubberbands at her when she wasn't looking and one day climbed under her dress in order to give a wonderful, beautifully articulated account of what he saw there. The speech teacher lapsed into a catatonic state, and the class was canceled.

My parents laughed uncomfortably at the principal, at my teachers, and at the neighbors and told them with an uneasy smile that I was just a tomboy. But at home my mother would lament loudly, usually at the dinner table, about the daughter she had hoped for, a daughter who fit the description of Judy or Alice or Sandra. At eleven, I was already a failure. My mother would threateningly put a lambchop on my plate and proclaim: "You'll outgrow it!" I looked at the lambchop and realized that we had about the same chance of mutating. I ate lambchops from that day forth with love.

By the time I was twelve, I, like the lambchop, hadn't changed. Neither had Judy or Alice or Sandra, and today they are women pushing real crinoline babies through suburban parks while I whizz through midtown traffic, my cowboy boots on the handlebars.

[From OUT OF THE CLOSETS: VOICES OF GAY LIBERATION. Edited by Karla Jay and Allen Young. Reprinted by permission. Karla will be a Keynote Speaker at Maine Gay Symposium IV, in Bangor on Saturday, March 26, 1977.]





# Review

By Jerry Banner

Isherwood, Christopher, Christopher and His Kind: 1929-1939, New York, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$10.00.

Shortly before Christmas another volume of Christopher Isherwood's memoirs was published. Christopher and His Kind: 1929-1939 recounts the author's life during the inter-war period when he fled his upper-middle-class English background and moved to Berlin, to his arrival in this country with his lifelong friend and sometime lover W.H. Auden. In the first volume of his life's history Kathleen and Frank (Simon and Schuster, 1972) Isherwood dealt with his parents and childhood. In writing it the author wanted to discover and explain himself. In doing this he unequivocally came out--

Despite the humiliation of living under a heterosexual dictatorship and the fury he has often felt against it, Christopher has never regretted being as he is... Heterosexuality wouldn't have suited Christopher. It would have fatally cramped his style.

Isherwood who was born in 1904, is alive and proud (especially on the West Coast where he has lived for almost 40 years) in defense of the Gay community. He is best known for his Berlin Stories which were the basis for the play and movie 'I Am a Camera' and the Broadway musical 'Cabaret'. To those interested in Eastern philosophy Isherwood's name is associated with Vedanta and his biography of Ramakrishna. His most moving fiction is a novel called A Single Man published in 1964 and now out of print. A Single Man is the story of the last days of a middle-aged Gay college teacher struggling with loneliness.

Christopher and His Kind has now been reviewed in many of the major Gay and non-Gay journals. An especially lucid commentary is Gore Vidal's essay in The New York Review of



Books (Dec. 9, 1976). For those who want to know more about all of Isherwood's fiction, the complete Oct. '76 issue of the journal, Twentieth Century Literature is devoted to his work.

Isherwood is an important writer. He has known many of the great Gay writers of this century. What has he said that we here in Maine can use?

The most obvious quality is Isherwood's pride in his different-ness and his determination to be himself. "My will" he wrote in Christopher "is to live according to my nature and to find a place where I can be what I am."

Throughout his adult life Isherwood has identified with the underdog. During World War II he worked as a conscientious objector with the American Friends Service Committee. Isherwood's own minority status in the sexual wilderness has made him a more concerned Gay person. "I have written about homosexuals in my novels," he said in a New York Times (Feb. 15, 1972) interview, "and in taking up the cause of one minority that of homosexuals... I have spoken out for all minorities. And we are all minorities in one way or another."

As a writer of fiction and Hollywood scenarist Isherwood dealt with fantasy. He is now involved with finding his reality, warts and all. If he does not always appear as the hero of his own life he doesn't seem to mind. He admits that when he moved to Berlin he "was suffering from an inhibition, then not unusual among upper-class homosexuals; he couldn't relax sexually with a member of his own class or nation. He needed a working class foreigner." Isherwood has the gumption to point out what is unreal in his own life. He found his identity and he approves of himself. May we all be as fortunate.

In closing the session with two men who were making a videotape interview for the archives of the Gay Activists Alliance, Isherwood said, "A word more to you two. Any sort of concealment that an artist puts up about his life injures him as an artist, just as it injures him as a man."



# The State Street Straw

By Peter Prizer

*After militarism, it's been said, the greatest effect on the economy of this country is made by the advertising industry.*

A recent article in Christopher Street Magazine asked, "How Straight Is Madison Avenue?" It began by observing, "There are no major Gay ads and there are no plans for any." While allowing that "a wonderland of Gay images" might be detected by the sharp observer, the article concluded sadly, with a quote from a copy writer who had been observing the scene for years. "Even the Gay people on Madison Avenue are straight." Alas, the article appeared to show, the advertising industry is not about to forsake its cherished images (heterosexualisation being one mere facet) to accomodate other points of view.

Which is just fine with me. As far as I'm concerned, the contemporary advertising scene is, or certainly should be, utterly oppressive to everyone who doesn't happen to be a white, Anglo-Saxon, protestant, heterosexual, upper-class male. They're the ones that can idly sit back as the 5.6 billion advertising messages spew forth daily from newspapers, weeklies, magazines and periodicals. These men shouldn't be offended, either, by the 750,000 commercials a day om AM and FM radio, or by the 330,000 outdoor billboards, or by the 51 million direct mail pieces and leaflets. And of course, these men accept as perfectly normal the content of the 100,000 or so TV ads each day. Why are these men so indifferent to basically oppressive advertising? Because they're running the ad business and, more importantly, it's their sensibilities that are tapped to produce advertising that's insulting to women, minority people, older people, Gay people and, in short, to everyone except the white, heterosexual men.

We're all familiar with the countless TV ads that



show men, who hardly waste their valuable time washing clothes, telling a "perplexed" woman which soap cleans best. Or we see a female or male model lamenting over all their gray hairs, and how it's getting difficult plucking them all out (of course, older people with naturally gray hair may wish to dye it darker or just feel ugly.) Gay people, as noted by *Christopher Street*, aren't allowed to appear in mass-circulation advertising. And minority people, when they make ad copy at all, are often the target of not-so-subtle racist attacks.

Let's look at what TV advertising has done for (to) the image of Mexicans and, by logical extension, to the image of Chicanos and Mexican-Americans in this country. The "Granny Goose" ad shows a fat Mexican toting guns and ammunition; racist inference: Mexicans are overweight and carry deadly weapons. The "Frito-Lay" ad portrays the "Frito Bandito" as a sneaky thief. Liggett & Myers' ad depicts "Paco" as unable to "feenish" anything, not even a revolution. Racist inference: Mexicans are too lazy to improve themselves. R.J. Reynolds is content to infer that Mexicans are bandits. Camel Cigaretts shows a "typical" Mexican village--all the do-nothing, irresponsible Mexicans are sleeping or bored. General Motors' ad depicts a white man holding three Mexicans at gunpoint. Racist message: Mexicans can and should be arrested by superior white man. Philco-Ford shows Mexicans sleeping. Lark Cigaretts hints that Mexicans are sloppy, undependable workers. Frigid-aire's commercial has Mexican bandits investigating a new freezer. Racist message: Mexicans are thieves, seeking Anglo commodities. And Arrid has a Mexican bandit spraying his underarm while an Anglo voice says, "If it works for him, it will work for you." Naturally, according to the people behind the Arid ad, Mexicans stink the most.

The above examples, mind you, are how *Mexicans* are treated by Madison Avenue. Goddess help us if and when *Gay people* osmose into the advertising scene. If women and minorities are scorned today, who's to say that Lesbians and Gay men won't be exploited and stereotyped by commercial interests tomorrow?

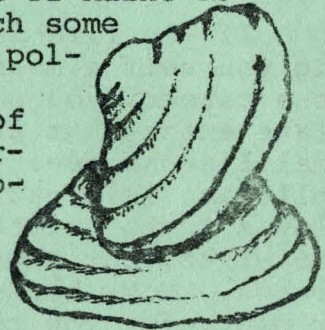


# CLAM HARVESTING IN SOUTHERN MAINE

*By Dan Spanton*

Although other coastal states such as Maryland and New Jersey harvest clams, clamdigging by hand is as stereotypically a part of Maine as lobstering. So far, the mechanical backhoes which dredge clams in Maryland as methodically as combines cut wheat in Kansas haven't taken over here. But even though the tradition of digging clams by hand has remained unaltered for two centuries, clamdigging as a profession in Southern Maine has lately come under State and Federal scrutiny. The reason: pollution.

Less than a decade ago the Department of Maine Resources implemented a program through which some areas closed to harvesting for reasons of pollution might be reopened, and as a result three plants designed for the depuration of clams from "moderately" polluted areas currently operate in Maine. All three are located in Scarborough and the set-up of each plant is fairly simple. The clams are placed in holding tanks through which salt water is pumped after first having passed beneath a grid of ultra-violet lights which kill harmful bacteria. The regulation time for keeping the clams in the tanks is forty-eight hours, until they have siphoned and rid themselves of polluted waters.



For most full-time clamdiggers in Southern Maine, a part of their lifestyle has changed as a result of this program. The clamdigger is still technically self-employed, but instead of seeking private markets and setting his or her own prices, they must now sell directly to the depuration plants. In most other respects, however, the job has remained the same. Clam digging crews generally don't exceed a dozen persons, except when new areas are opened and digging is exceptionally good. Although the crews operate on a rather close-knit, cooperative basis in matters of mutual concern, such as handling the boats and loading the



trucks, for the most part the individuals are on their own. No one tells them what to do. One is free to take a break any time, or go home, or just relax and observe the scenery and wildlife abundant along rivers and marshes. In this atmosphere it is not difficult for the Gay clamdigger to "come out" if he or she chooses. This writer has come out on four occasions to members of the crew, and on two occasions had lengthy discussions about Gay life, attitudes and problems, of benefit at least to himself. Interpersonal relationships within a crew are generally relaxed. There are no authoritarian pressures, and the only other work-related pressure is self-imposed; arising when one decides to assert oneself competitively by digging more clams than someone else. But most diggers work according to their needs and abilities.

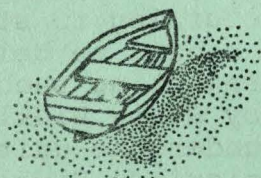
If you live in a town along the coast and would like to dig yourself a mess, but are not interested in clamdigging as a career, you should contact town officials to see if flats exist that are open to the public and must pay a minimal license fee. If you have never dug clams before, the following information might be useful. Many amateurs employ a fork, but the best tool is a clamming hoe, which is fork-like, but has a short handle at a right-angle to the prongs. Most hardware stores along the coast supply them, or can refer you to a supplier. Playtex rubber gloves are also recommended to protect hands from shell cuts.

The higher clam flats are already well exposed about two hours before low tide. Find a spot where the clam holes are showing fairly close together and dig a shallow trench. From there on it's reasonably simple; flipping chunks back into the trench with the hoe so that clams protrude from the underside of the section of sand, mud or clay. Clams 2 to 2 and a half inches in length are best for steaming. Clams less than 2 inches should be left to grow. Larger clams are called cutters, since they are cut out of the shell for frying or baking, but if they are too big they may be tough. To cut the clam, insert a knife near the juncture of the shells on the side and slide it completely around the edges on both shells. Open the clam and remove the meat, then strip off the brownish "string" which encircles the clam and



meets at the "neck." Peel back the skin at the base of the neck a fraction of an inch with the knife and then remove the neck. (At least one better-known waterfront restaurant in Portland doesn't cut the necks, and the result is decidedly chewy.)

Happy clamming!



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Of special interest to Gay men, ESPLANADE is mailed bimonthly in plain, sealed envelopes. \$12 for 26 issues.

ESPLANADE  
101 Western Ave. (Rm. 61)  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

## Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are

Feel lost in the heterosexual world? Read Growing Up Gay, a new pamphlet by Youth Liberation. It contains 16 articles by sensitive young men and women about the experience of being young and gay. Included are articles about accepting one's gayness, coming out, and talking with parents. There is an extensive list of resources. Only \$1.25 from Youth Liberation, Dept. G, 2007 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

## NEWS FROM SOUTHERN MAINE GAYS

BERWICK--On Sunday, Jan. 23, a comfortable old house on Berwick Street came to life with the influx of masses of Gays.

Our second meeting was a success; well-attended, and lots of good ideas and discussions were bandied about.

It was decided to hold our next meeting on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 2PM, here in beautiful Berwick. This will be a pot luck affair, so here's your chance to display your culinary talents. See ya then!

For directions call:

Richard  
967-4064

or

Alan  
698-5535



# FONZIE HATES YOU

*By Tommi Avicelli*

I've never been fond of the "Fonz." Nor of "Happy Days," "Laverne and Shirley" and the whole faddish nostalgia trip back into the so-called fun-filled and glorious 1950's. Besides the fact that the 50's were a dark ages for Gays--the 50's also produced many extremely obnoxious "cool dudes" like the "Fonz" who harassed Gays.

It's possible that "Happy Days" was launched as a satire on the 50's; however, it's become a cult. They now have "Fonzi" t-shirts, records and dolls. The "Fonz" has become the mouthpiece for a generation returning to strict masculine and feminine role models. It is hard to believe that only a few short years ago we were rejecting such absurd role models as the one personified by Henry Winkler on "Happy Days." But then the country has undergone quite a few changes towards the right since the glorious Sixties faded into oblivion.

The "Fonz" is quickly becoming a folk hero--his inane utterings are becoming the new vocabulary of the high school crowd. And his tough style of dress has replaced the unisex look of the early Seventies. As a role model for young boys, I find the "Fonz" an appalling apparition of our culture's worst hang-ups. The "Fonz's" tough demeanor is stereotypically masculine, yet no more so than a Hemingway character, or a TV western hero. What makes the "Fonz" even more threatening than the latter two is his ability to transcend the mere media image and take on a god-like presence in our culture. Never before in human history has any given media had the potential for such an impact on the mores of a culture. Of course one can reasonably argue that the "Fonz" will fade into oblivion in a few seasons as all TV shows do; yet will he? It's quite common practice that when one type series fails, TV execs merely xerox it with slightly different faces and names for the next season.

The "Fonz" is not only "cool" and slick, he is also ex-



tremely chauvinistic and of course homophobic. In one particular episode, a new owner takes over the garage where the "Fonz" works. The man is effeminate and "uncool" to the point where he won't touch grease because it makes his "eyebrows fall off." The man is clearly a Gay character--it's not specifically stated, but all of the typical inferences are there. And the "Fonz"--the epitome of all that is male and hence sacred in our culture--manages to belittle this strange man who wants the garage employees to wear vinyl overalls so that the grease will slide off.

The "Fonz's" treatment of women is, naturally, misogynistic. He is the great white Zeus, and all of creation bows to him--especially every woman. He has little time for relationships, as they are "uncool."

So what's wrong with the "Fonz" you ask? Isn't he just a harmless Hollywood gimmick created to ring bells in cash registers and stuff bank accounts of already wealthier-than-thou TV execs? A gimmick he is, but harmless he's not. Unlike the hero of West Side Story who was able to overcome the prejudices and macho mentality of the streets of New York, the "Fonz" glorifies the macho male who will NOT change--who will continue belittling women and Gays. He is the fantasy-hero of those men who we face every day we venture into the nightmarishly stark American streets.

The "Fonz" is far from harmless--he's a venom in the guise of a buffoon, the worst sort, since, as Puccini discovered with Pagliacci, the buffoon arouses the empathy of whole generations. Alas, what a thought!

[The above article originally appeared in the Philadelphia Weekly Gayzette of Dec. 10-17, 1976. The mailing address of the Weekly Gayzette is PO Box 13420, Phila., PA 19101. Tom Hurley's poetry review of Tommi Avicolli's *Magic Doesn't Live Here Anymore* is planned for the March issue--Ed.]



## THE QUESTION IS - WHY DON'T THEY?

*By John Silvernail*

I can not even begin in this 'open letter' to list the scattered articles and entire text I've read in the past year. All have pertained to homosexuality. All have provided more questions than answers. And all have left me with the feeling that even the majority of those dedicated to the scientific study of human behavior have failed to look at the form and quality of Gay life without bias--and as a result have failed to provide the knowledge and support we need in our search for equality.

Study after study has asked the question, "do Gay relationships last?" And study after study has answered, "no"! But the question I've found myself asking for years is - why?

A recent article in the Advocate pointed out that Gay unions are without legal sanction. There is no exchange of vows or rings. There are no social or financial advantages, no tax exemptions. Though the article was well written and informative it came nowhere near exploring all of the critical factors which I suspect create the differences between legalized heterosexual marriages and committed Gay relationships. It touched on some, but left much unmentioned, much unquestioned.

A year ago I began work on a graduate degree at the University of Maine, Orono. One of the requirements for completing an M.S. in my particular department is to research and prepare a thesis. As a member of the Gay community I feel this presents an ideal opportunity to explore and substantiate, with actual recorded data, the question I've asked myself for more years than I care to recount - why? Why don't the majority of relationships last? Why do two people who start out "in love" and committed to each other find it so incredibly difficult to hold on to that care and dedication? With the complete support of my graduate faculty committee I have designed a research project that deals directly with these questions. But even the



most carefully designed project is useless without the assistance of a great number of people who will voluntarily serve as subjects. Therefore I am appealing to you.

My research is divided into two segments of phases. The first is a brief questionnaire to be completed by Gays (men and women) who presently consider themselves to be single. The second segment involves a packet of questionnaires to be given to Gay couples who presently live together and who have maintained their relationship for a period of at least six months. Again, both male and female couples are desired.

It is my belief that the results of this study, which will be published on completion, may eventually prove of benefit to Gay people throughout this country. We will no longer defend ourselves with words that describe what we "feel" is right - but with documented facts and figures. We may well discover that rumor and previous research are indeed correct - that the vast majority of Gay relationships don't last. But we'll know why! And in knowing why we will be one important step closer to clearly defining what social and legal changes are necessary to permit Gays everywhere to achieve the quality of life they both desire and deserve.

I would be deeply appreciative if anyone who is willing to assist me by filling out and returning the appropriate questionnaire would contact me by writing to the address printed at the close of this letter. Simply give an address to which the questionnaire can be sent and stipulate in which of the two categories, single or involved, you belong. A stamped return envelope will be included with the questionnaires.

All responses are strictly confidential and at no time will the names or addresses of those participating in the study be revealed.

Thank you for your assistance--it's for all of us.

John W. Silvernail/School of Human Development

Rm. #28 Merrill Hall

University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04473



## WOMAN

(Which includes Men, of course)

There is much concern today about the future of Man, which means of course, both women and men...generic Man. For a woman to take exception to this use of the term "man" is often seen as defensive hair-splitting by an emotional female.

The following experience is an invitation to awareness, in which you are asked to feel into and stay with your feelings through each step. Do not intellectualize, for the experience will lose its impact.

Think of reversing the generic term man. Think of the future of woman, which includes, of course, both women and men. Sense its meaning for you, as a man...as a woman. Think of it always being that way, every day of your life. Feel the ever-presence of woman, and feel the non-presence of man. Absorb what it tells you about the importance of being woman...of being man. Recall that everything you have ever read used only female pronouns, she, her, meaning both girls and boys, women and men. Recall that most of the voices on radio and most of the faces on TV are women...when important events are covered...on commercials...on talk shows. Recall that you have no male Senators in Washington to represent you.

Feel the fact that women are the natural leaders, the power-centers, the Prime-movers. Man, whose natural role is husband and father, fulfills himself through nurturing children, and making the home a refuge for women. This is only natural to balance the biological role of Woman, who devotes her WHOLE BODY to the race during pregnancy...the most revered power known to Woman...and man, of course.

Consider the obvious biological explanation for woman as the ideal...her genital construction. By design, the female genitals are compact and internal, protected by her body. Male genitals are so exposed and vulnerable that he



must be protected from outside attack to assure the perpetuation of the race. He obviously needs sheltering.

Thus, by nature, males are more passive than females, and have a desire in sexual relations to be symbolically engulfed by the protective body of the female. Males, psychologically, yearn for this protection, fully realizing their masculinity at this time, and feeling exposed and vulnerable at other times. A man experiences himself as a "whole man" when thus engulfed. If the man denies these feelings, he is unconsciously rejecting his masculinity. Therapy is thus indicated to help him adjust to his own nature. Therapy is administered by a woman who has the education and wisdom to facilitate openness leading to the man's growth and self-actualization. To help him feel into his defensive emotionality, he is invited to get in touch with the child within him. He remembers his sister jeering at his primitive genitals that "flop around foolishly." She can run, jump, climb and ride horseback unencumbered. Obviously, since she is free to move, she is encouraged to develop her body and mind in preparation for her active responsibilities of adult womanhood. The male vulnerability needs female protection, so he is taught the less active, caring virtues of homemaking.

Because of his vagina-envy, he learns to bind up his genitals and feel unclean and ashamed because of his nocturnal emissions. He is encouraged to dream of getting married and waits for the time of his fulfillment...when his woman gives him a girl-child to care for. He knows that if it is a boy-child, he has somehow failed. But they can always try again.

In therapy, those early experiences are reawakened. He attends an encounter group entitled, "On Being a Man" which is led by a woman. In a group of 19 men and 4 women, he begins to work through some of his deepest feelings.

What feelings do you think he will express?

--Theodore Wells



# The Kitchen Sink

January 30th was Gay Rights Day, sponsored by the Connecticut Gay Task Force. The Day, held at Partners Cafe, reportedly included introductory remarks by Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force, and a talk by Ray Hopkins of Boston's GAY COMMUNITY NEWS. Most of the Day centered around a lobbying workshop, designed to teach C.G.T.F. members how to win friends and talk with legislators. The evening's activities, featuring a buffet dinner, entertainment by local musicians and a dance, was a C.G.T.F. fund-raising event. The address of the Task Force is: C.G.T.F., PO Box 514, Hartford, Conn. 06101.

-C.G.T.F. PRESS RELEASE

GAY GREETING CARDS...These cards depict same-sex affection, but are taken from 19th century children's books, ironically enough! With your purchase, you contribute in a small part to the liberation of Gay people. Write me as to details concerning buying quantities of cards for your own Gay group. These cards are blank inside. Small cards: \$3.50 per box of 10. Large cards: \$5 per box of ten. Send for

brochure or order from:  
J.M.R. Cooper, 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

Marilyn L. Foley, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. and Judith E. Sigler, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. are pleased to announce the relocation and expansion of their private practice of psychotherapy to 7 Perley Street, Concord, NH 03301 (224-5600.) If you know of Gay men or Lesbians who are looking for Gay psychotherapists in NH, these may be the people to contact. They charge \$30 per session but will negotiate if the fee would create a realistic hardship. They do individual, feminist, couples, family and group psychotherapy, with a 24 hour answering service.

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- The Executive Committee of the Gay Rights National Lobby, Inc., spent more than 14 hours in meetings January 15 and 16 to continue plans for the establishment of a full-time lobbying office in Washington, D.C. The Executive Committee consists of five officers elected at the full Board of Directors meeting held in December. One of the most important decisions of the Committee was the initiation of a pilot program



for the establishment of Regional Advisory Boards in three areas of the country: the Midwest, Southwest and West Coast. These regional boards will initially help to raise membership and funds for GRNL, as well as to keep the Board in touch with and informed of the needs of the regions. Membership in the Gay Rights National Lobby, Inc., are available for a minimum of \$15. Checks can be made out to either the full name or GRNL, Inc., and sent to Suite 210, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

-GRNL PRESS RELEASE

Rep. Ed Koch (D-NY) has introduced the national Gay civil rights bill into the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill is identical to the one Rep. Bella Abzug had introduced in the last Congress, on the first day of the 95th Congress, Jan. 4, 1977. The bill, H.R. 451, would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by adding the words "affectional or sexual preference" to each list of human conditions for which people can not be legally discriminated against. The bill goes to the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee (Ed. note: of which Maine Rep. William Cohen is a member.) Rep. Koch had gotten nine other members of Congress

to sign with him as prime sponsors of this bill when it was introduced, and four others have asked to be on the bill already. Koch is sending a letter to all Members of Congress the last week of January, explaining what the bill does and inviting additional co-sponsors. The plans to introduce the bill again with more co-sponsors in mid-February. It is absolutely imperative that people write their Congresspeople urging them to co-sponsor H.R. 451. Please send copies of any letters you write to the Congressional File, UFMCC Washington Office, Suite 210, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

OHIO NEWSLETTERS...The January issue of "Headline," the newsletter of the Columbus, O. Gay Activist Alliance, lists the addresses of two central Ohio newsletters. "Headline's" address is c/o the Gay Activist Alliance of Columbus, 1739 North High Street, Room 323, Columbus, O. 43210 [nice ZIP!] Central Ohio Lesbians publish a newsletter too. They're at PO Box 8393, Columbus, O. 43201.

NEWS from Lesbian Herstory Archives: "We were delighted and excited to receive a grant of \$415 from the women of the New York Region Lesbian Feminist Conference Committee. They suggested that the funds be used for preserva-



tion of already collected materials and cataloging. We would appreciate ideas and expertise from any women-librarians and otherwise, to help us establish a permanent cataloging/retrieval system for the Archives based on Lesbian-Feminist principles. Please write to us and let us know if you want to explore this further with us." LHA is at: PO Box 1258, New York, NY 10001.

The Gay Student Union (GSU) at the University of Vermont recently had their budget passed by the Student Senate by a vote of 43-40 after experiencing "some funding difficulties," reports John Tobin of GSU. Another one for our side, folks! GSU's address, incidentally, is Billings Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05401.

WHAT'S DOING IN KANSAS: Reports THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD: "Thanks to all the beautiful folks who made our last dance a success. To the men and women who staffed the table and the doors, to the northeastern Kansas and northwestern Missouri Gay communities and to the Kansas University straights who know how to have fun, we give a big THANKS. It just all goes to prove that mid-westerners are a lot more hip than everyone else presupposes. Our next disco fling is Feb. 19.

That's a Saturday night. This will be a Valentine Dance high-lighting Kansas Sodomy Week..." From the NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENT HOMOPHILE ASSOCIATION of Wichita State University: "The Student Homophile Association, along with the Wichita Gay Community Association and Wichita Free University, are sponsoring a Homosexuality Forum this semester. The six week discussion group will focus on homosexuality and the law, Gay politics, religion, Gay literature, Gay personalities and the mental health profession, and Gay lifestyles. Representatives from various community organizations will be present for commentary and questions."

RECENTLY we received the following press release from GAY ACTION, a group of militant Gay activists in San Francisco: "Below is the complete text of the letter Gay Action sent to Judge Ben Birdsall of Tucson, Arizona. Birdsall presided over the trial of the killers of Richard Heakin, a Gay activist from Lincoln, Nebraska. Birdsall placed the teenagers on probation and praised their athletic records [see News Short, p.3 last issue.]

December 6, 1976

Mr. Birdsall,

As a result of your ruling in the Richard Heakin murder trial, our organization, GAY ACTION, a



group of militant Gay activists in San Francisco, is compelled to express our condemnation of you and your decision.

Your handing our suspended sentences to the convicted killers of Richard Heakin is nothing less than encouraging the murder of Gay people. Your outright bigotry and the mockery of justice that you represent force us to lose all respect for the law. You and other bigots like you in positions of power are among the main perpetrators of violence in our society.

We have formed the Richard Heakin Memorial Committee in order to protect Gay people from acts of street violence, similar to the tragic confrontation that took Heakin's life, and from acts of institutionalized violence, similar to the travesty for which you are to blame.

Heakin's martyrdom is spurring to action a great many people who are facing the reality that they cannot depend on authority to protect their interests. Gay people in greater and greater numbers are taking responsibility for their own safety.

We curse you for the violence you have committed. May you live to regret your decision. May your conscience come alive and cause you great suffering for all the years to come.

Sincerely,

The Membership of GAY ACTION

SIGNAL, the Newsletter of the Gay Nurses Alliance, reports for January, '77 that speaking engagements have been done all over the country, both by national coordinators and by people locally. In this last year or so, significant engagements have occurred in Massachusetts, Michigan, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey... At the 1975 Massachusetts Nurses' Association convention, a panel presentation on homosexuality and health care was made by David Waldron and Massachusetts members Laura Rood and Marilyn Anderson-Richard. Marilyn and Laura also served on the Human Rights Committee of MNA.

IN 1976, American women found it easier to vote for a homosexual for President than a tax-evader. That is the conclusion of WomenPoll, a survey research organization that asked more than 1,000 women this question: Would you vote for a qualified candidate for President of the United States who:

1. is from the East Coast
2. is from the South
3. is a member of a minority group
4. is an atheist
5. paid no income tax last year
6. is a homosexual

Only 9% would vote for a tax-evader, 22% would vote for a Gay, 28% for an atheist, 69% for a minority candidate, and 83% and 85%, respective-



ly, would vote for Southerners and Easterners.

*Planning to attend the Mardi Gras this spring in New Orleans? The Gay Service Center in that city is coordinating private housing for Gay women and men. They're at 2006 Burgundy St., or call 947-GAYS.*

-GAY-LA (D.O.B. NEWSLETTER)

JACKSON, Mississippi-- THE LESBIAN FRONT is a newsletter of Lesbian feminist concern which began publishing here several years ago. The paper lists an excellent collection of new or current material available. It contains short stories, poetry, articles on non-traditional religion, interpersonal relationships, politics, book reviews, personalities--all oriented exclusively to the Lesbian feminist. Address: Lesbian Front, PO Box 8342, Jackson, Ms. 39204

-Louisiana GAY BLADE

In early December the Gay Activists Alliance of New York City received a response from the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Freedom of Information Act; GAA has filed an appeal. On August 18, 1975, GAA filed the request with the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act for copies

of all FBI files pertaining to GAA. GAA has received what the FBI considers a reply: five single-page documents, three of which identified GAA as "a homosexual group headquartered in NYC, whose purpose is the promotion of 'gay rights'." There are no documents provided pertaining to the burglary and arson of GAA's Firehouse headquarters in October, 1974. There were no documents pertaining to the numerous demonstrations and other GAA activities since our inception in December, 1969. All of the five documents are dated 1972 or earlier. GAA's appeal letter to the FBI contains 32 specific requests for all pertinent FBI documents. GAA may be the only Gay activist group in the country to obtain any response from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act. As soon as a better and more complete response is received, GAA will release it. The FBI will be pressed until they comply with the letter and spirit of the Act.

FIRST GAY DISCRIMINATION STUDY AVAILABLE: The Tulsa, Oklahoma Community Relations Commission has published a Sexual Preference Report described in a recent article in the Commission's monthly newsletter, COMMUNIQUE: "The end



result of five months of intensive research will be published soon by CRC as the 107-page SEXUAL PREFERENCE REPORT. Viki Myers and CRC staffers put the report together after members of the Tulsa Gay Community Caucus told the City Commission in April that they are discriminated against in jobs and housing. After defining "sexual preference" came a two-month series of personal interviews with persons of homosexual orientation to outline grievances. The questionnaires were sent and distributed to gather basic data. Of 516 completed, 68% of the respondents were male, 32% were female. Questions related to employment, personnel agencies, labor organizations, housing and public accommodations, and police practices. Copies of the report will be available from the CRC office. A small fee, undetermined at this time, will be charged to help cover printing costs." *This is the first study of its kind that has come to our attention. To order a copy of the Tulsa "Sexual Preference Report," write to Viki Myers at the Community Relations Commission, 200 Civic Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103. We think that the report (which we've not seen yet) does demonstrate discrimination against Gay people in the Tulsa area.*

-NGTF ACTION REPORT

Tim Dlugos in CHRISTOPHER STREET MAGAZINE (Jan. '77) : *Moments of Being: Unpublished Autobiographical Writings* by Virginia Woolf will come out on Jan. 14, and I, for one, will start hanging out in the bookstores weeks beforehand in the hope of seeing it early. Published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, edited and introduced by Jeanne Schulkind, the volume contains five autobiographic fragments, including recollections of the author's childhood and details of her relationship with her immediate family. Reading it sounds like a wonderful way to start the year.

MORE NEWS FROM The Connecticut Gay Task Force: "On February 12, 1977--Lincoln's Birthday--the Connecticut Gay Task Force will hold (or 'held,' depending on the mailing date of this issue) a Vigil For Freedom, beginning at noon at the State Capitol, Hartford. The Vigil will commemorate Gay people, past and present who have been the victims of oppression. During Hitler's regime, a quarter million homosexuals were harassed, imprisoned in concentration camps and eventually exterminated. Today, twenty million Americans are being continuously harassed and forced to suffer loss of jobs, homes and other



forms of discrimination merely because they do not fit this society's mold. [Details of the Vigil will appear in the February issue.] Those who would like to join our Vigil are urged to meet at the State Capitol at noon on Saturday, February 12th. For more information, contact the C.G.T.F. at PO Box 514, Hartford, CT 06101 or call the Hartford Gay Switchboard at 203-522-5575.

Spokeswoman, spokesperson, spokesman--the confusion over usage never ends, but more was created when this appeared in the November 28 Sunday Globe, "...some spokesmen for women's rights--like Banking Commissioner Carol Greenwald..." Awww, c'mon fellas, the times are changing--even at the Globe.

-EQUAL TIMES

The National Gay Task Force has prepared a packet of informational statements by leading psychologists, psychiatrists, and human sexuality experts to support the efforts of Gay parents to obtain custody and visitation rights for their children. It's available for \$1 from NGTF, Rm. 506, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011.

-MAINE FREEWOMAN'S HERALD

## Maine Lesbian-Feminists

The statewide organization of Maine Lesbian-Feminists emerged from the Maine Gay Symposium III held in Portland last April.

Among the purposes of the MLF are to provide a statewide forum for Maine Lesbians, to create a strong women's presence within the Gay community, and to bring Lesbian issues to the attention of the media and general public.

Bi-monthly meetings, held on Saturdays, include business, workshops, and a pot luck supper. Child care is always provided. Workshops cover such topics as Lesbian Mothers, Feminist Businesses, and Country Living.

The goals of the group include: establishing a Speakers' Bureau to educate community and social service organizations, printing and mailing a monthly newsletter, producing centers of Lesbian-Feminist musicians and promoting their recordings, and referring Lesbians to non-homophobic social services.

The MLF, with a current mailing list of 200 women, uses Box 125, Belfast, ME 04915.



## NEWS FROM GPA

**ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING--**A two-part class in assertiveness training is being sponsored by the Gay People's Alliance of the University of Maine/Portland-Gorham. Instructor is Carol Whitehead. Classes will be Saturdays, 5 and 12 March 1977, 10AM to 4PM each time. Fee will be \$5 for the entire course. Space is limited. Call GPA, 773-2981, ext. 535.

**SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST--**GPA has entered radio station WGAN's snow sculpture contest, to be held in Deering Oaks Park (?!) in Portland. Ideas and labor needed. Call for info (same no. as above). Help us win some much-needed bread and raise the consciousness of the unsuspecting public!

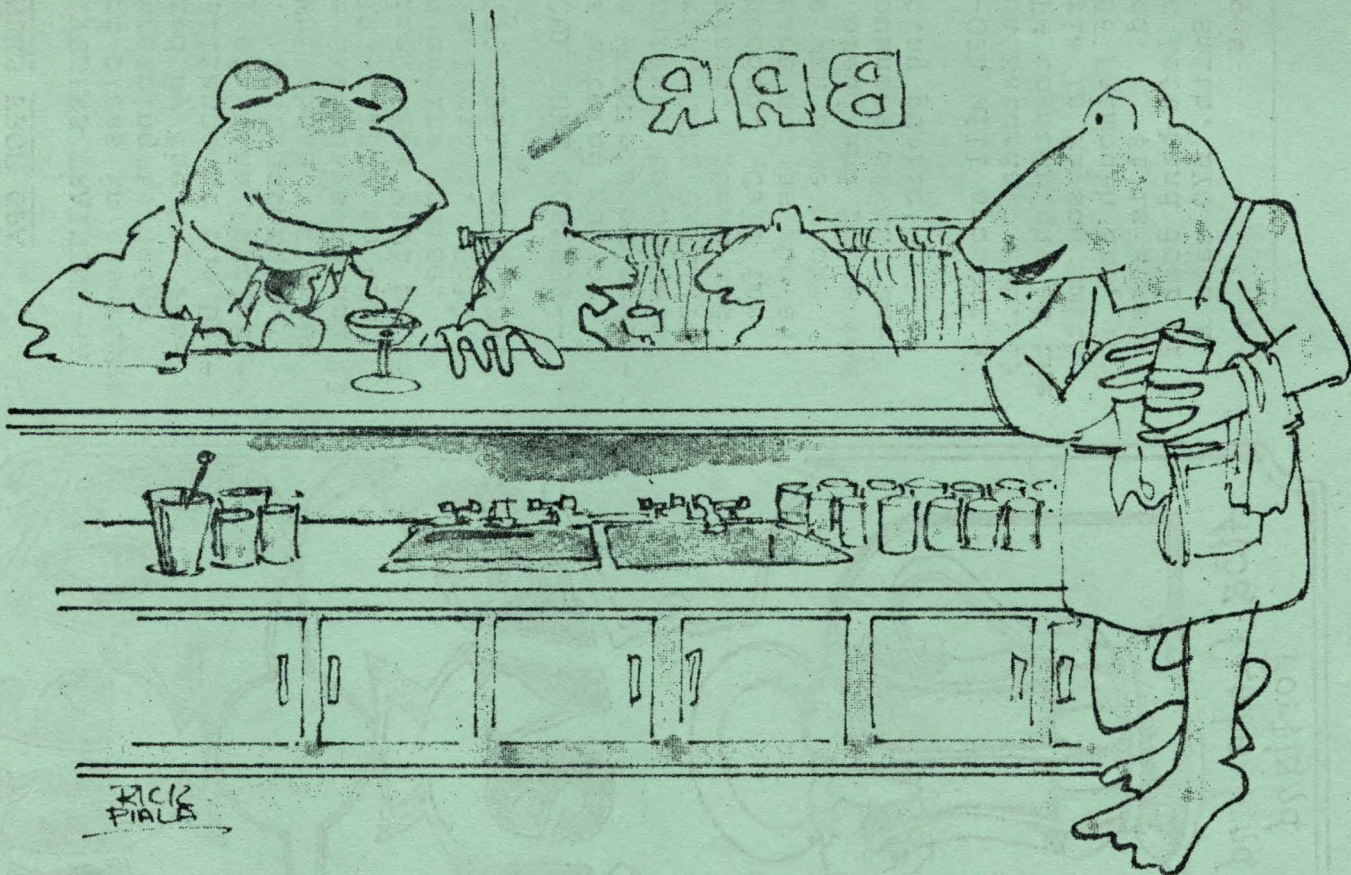
**DANCE--**GPA will sponsor a dance on Saturday, Feb. 19 from 9PM to midnight at the cafeteria in Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth St., in Portland. \$1 is asked. Use the left-hand door of Payson Smith. BYO eats & beverages



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*"After a hard day at the office, it's nice to be with your own kind, isn't it?"*

from CHRISTOPHER STREET jan/77



# Calendar

The Wilde-Stein Club meets every FRIDAY at 7PM in the International Lounge of Memorial Union for a business and general meeting. All are welcome, students and non-students.

The Gay People's Alliance meets every MONDAY at 7PM for a general business rap at 92 Bedford Street, Portland. Additionally, there is a more informal rap group every THURSDAY. Contact GPA at 773-2981 (ext. 535) for time and spot. Everyone is welcome to the Monday rap; the Thursday rap may be limited...check for details.

Growing...Sober and Gay welcomes all Gays and bisexuals who are interested in living a chemically-free life. Contact them at GSG, PO Box 893, Waterville, ME 04901. This group meets on THURSDAY nights, from 8-9:30.

The Confidential Gay Drug and Alcohol Rap Group meets every MONDAY at 6PM at Day One, 158 Danforth Street, Portland. All are welcome.

The fifth gathering of Maine Lesbian Feminists (MLF) will meet SATURDAY, February 12, at 10AM in the Brunswick area.

Further information about the upcoming February meeting may be obtained through PO Box 125, Belfast, ME 04915.

MAINE GAY SYMPOSIUM IV will run through FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY morning, March 25, 26, 27 at Bangor Community College. Contact the Wilde-Stein Club in Orono for info.

The staff of Mainely Gay have business and strategy meetings each WEDNESDAY in the Portland area. If you're interested in having input, call 773-5530 for time (usually 7:30p) and spot.

The Gay People's Alliance is sponsoring a dance on SATURDAY, Feb. 19 at Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth St., Portland. From 9PM to 12. \$1 asked; BYO/drink & munchies.



## LISTING OF AREA GAY GROUPS

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS  
PO BOX 125  
BELFAST, MAINE 04915

MAINE GAY TASK FORCE/  
MAINELY GAY  
PO BOX 4542  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04112

SEACOAST AREA GAY ALLIANCE  
75 COURT STREET  
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
03801

LESBIAN CAUCUS  
FERNALD HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
ORONO, MAINE 04473

WILDE-STEIN CLUB  
C/O MEMORIAL UNION  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
ORONO, MAINE 04473

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE  
92 BEDFORD STREET  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103

SO. MAINE LESBIAN CAUCUS  
C/O JOHNSEN  
289 STATE STREET  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

SOUTHERN MAINE GAYS  
RICHARD (967-4064)  
ALAN (698-5535)  
[YORK COUNTY & VICINITY]

CONFIDENTIAL GAY DRUG AND  
ALCOHOL RAP GROUP  
PO BOX 4542  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04112

GROWING...SOBER AND GAY  
PO BOX 893  
WATERVILLE, MAINE 04901

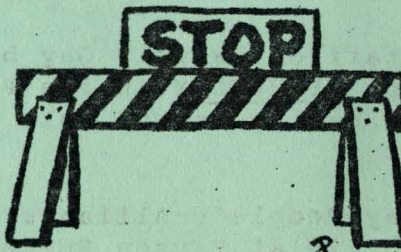
\* \* \* \* \*

## EASTERN CANADA GAY GROUPS

GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY  
BOX 161, ARMDALE STATION  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3L 4G9  
GAYLINE: (902) 420-6969

LESBIAN DROP-IN  
HALIFAX WOMEN'S CENTRE  
5673 BRETON PLACE  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30-10:30PM  
(902) 423-0643

COMMUNITY HOMOPHILE ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWFOUNDLAND (CHAN)  
BOX 613, STATION C  
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND A1C 5K8





## GROWING...SOBER and GAY

A new group has formed in the Greater Waterville (Maine) area. We welcome all Gays and bisexuals who are interested in living a chemically-free life. We are recovering alcoholics and addicts who are enjoying life without booze and drugs. If you are interested in growing with us, drop a line to GSG, PO Box 893, Waterville, Maine 04901. We meet on Thursday nights, 8-9:30PM.

# Feminist Newsletter

A well edited and informative publication of reviews, news notes, resources and opinion by a volunteer staff of undergraduate students at the University of New Hampshire. This Newsletter deserves support from all of us--they welcome contributions from the feminist community. For a copy, write:

Feminist Newsletter  
c/o English Department  
Hamilton Smith Hall  
University of N.H.  
Durham, N.H. 03824

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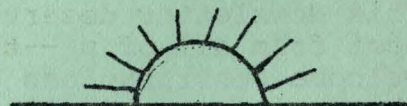
The Women's Counseling Service provides low-cost feminist counseling and referrals for women throughout Maine. Some counselors are Lesbians, all are non-homophobic. Their hours are Mondays 7-10, Wednesdays 11-2, Thursdays 4-7 and Saturdays 10-1.

To contact them call 443-9531 (or write) or drop by their office at Room 23, 72 Front Street, Bath 04915.



~ Maine ~  
**FREEWOMAN'S  
HERALD**

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yr. / portland, me.*



CONFIDENTIAL GAY DRUG AND ALCOHOL RAP GROUP-meets Monday evening, 6PM, at Day One, 158 Danforth Street, Portland. Call 773-5530 for information.



# UnclassifiedS

FREE BITS...free bits...FREE BITS...free bits...FREE BITS...free bits

■ MALE, 25, would like to meet and correspond with other Gays in Downeast Maine. Write to Steve, PO Box 67, Machias, ME 04654.

■ THE HOMOPHILE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE at 80 Boylston Street, Boston, has a Speaker's program. If you'd like more information, call Nancy Ballard at 617-542-5188 between noon and 9PM.

■ WHAT IS THE GAY SCENE LIKE in Indiana and Colorado? Male Gay student from Maine is interested in transferring to these two states, but wishes to know what the scene is like. Please send any information or suggestions to K.A. Sawyer, 184 So. Main St., Old Town, ME 04468. Thanks for the help! [Ed. note: You might try contacting these people: Bloomington Gay Alliance, Indiana Memorial Union, Bloomington, IN 47401...University Gay Activists, IPFW Student Union, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46805...Purdue Gay Alliance, Box 510, West Lafayette, IN 47907...Boulder Gay Coalition, Box 1402, Boulder, CO 80302...Gay Coalition of Denver, Box 18501, Denver, CO 80218...Fort Collins Gay Alliance, Student

Center, Box 210, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80521. Good luck!]

■ The following prisoners wish to have correspondence:

Roger Hall #034941  
PO Box 221  
Railford, Florida 32083

Don Smith #140-872  
PO Box 787  
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

Roger Lee Hall #034941  
PO Box 221  
Railford, Florida 32083

Timothy Ireland  
PO Box 100  
Somers, Connecticut 06071

John Hedlund  
PO Box 100  
Somers, Connecticut 06071

Alan Darrah #055183  
PO Box 747  
Starke, Florida 32091

William F. Smith #8691  
PO Box 2  
Lansing, Kansas 66043



# UnclassifiedS

FREE BITS...free bits...FREE BITS...free bits...FREE BITS...free bits

■ GAY WOMAN looking for someone to share my house and expenses. House is on Thomas Pond Road in South Casco, Maine. Boating is available, weather permitting. No age limit. No other obligations than company and the share of expenses, but woman who answers must be Gay. Call Nancy at 655-7412, or write c/o Box 449, South Casco, ME 04077

■ GAY MALE, 42, in education, would like to meet other Gay or bisexual men and women, 35-50. No married persons, please. Contact Ted, c/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

■ *Views from Within*, a publication by and for Gay prisoners (see BITS last issue) is no longer in print due to a decision of the Kansas prison system authorities. When the editor, William F. Smith, is released from prison this June, he will start it back up and inform us of its new address on the outside.

■ GAY MAN in Pana, Illinois is seeking to form a group of Gay persons in the Central Illinois area; discretion is necessary.

If you're interested, contact Greg Dilbeck, 214 South Sheridan, Pana, Ill. 62557 or 217-562-5132.

■ WOMAN WITH TWO DAUGHTERS seeking other women with daughters to start our own school. The planned opening date is September, 1977. Particularly seeking woman, with or without children, to teach; possibly only part-time for little or no money. We live on a forty-acre farm and although we cannot no accomodate people living with us here, we would like to begin a community of women in this general area--rotating class time in each other's homes. Interested people should contact Rhody Hinks, Rt.1, Box 1, Washington, ME 04574.

■ GAY MAN in Cornish, Maine is interested in meeting others--any age, for good times and possible relationship. A non-smoker and non-drinker. My interests include scuba diving, mountain hiking and music. Reply to Dave, c/o MGTF, PO Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

■ BITS ARE FREE!! They run for two consecutive issues, unless otherwise requested. Try 'em!



**UnclassifiedS**

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